

- SANTO · DOMINGO · MISSION -

HABS ^{GA-2118}
NO 14-118

- GLYNN · COUNTY · GEORGIA -

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Georgia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Harold Bush-Brown, District Officer
Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta, Ga.

SANTO DOMINGO MISSION OF TALXE OR TALGE
Brunswick, (Vicinity), Glynn County, Georgia

Owner: Mr. Cator Woolford, Atlanta, Ga.

Date of Erection: Beginning or Seventeenth Century.

Present Condition: Ruins. Well preserved by putting in wood pieces and metal tie rods. All interior debris has been removed and a steel fence erected around the ruins.

Number of Stories: One.

Materials of Construction: Tabby foundation and walls, with wood beams and framed openings. Metal has been used to hold masonry together in recent restorations.

Other Existing Records: Records by P. Thornton Marye, District Officer HABS., 1934. Measured drawings by James L. Robeson under C.C.C. State Park Dept.

Additional Data: Local tradition has it that this structure was first erected by the Franciscans on what was later the Elizafield Plantation on the Altamaha River.

Harold Bush-Brown
HAROLD BUSH-BROWN
DISTRICT OFFICER-HABS

SANTO DOMINGO MISSION
Altamaha River
Glynn County
Georgia

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL NOTES:

"Of the missions on the coast", says H.E. Bolton in his Debatable Land, "we have a picture drawn in 1655". One of the missions in this "picture" was Santo Domingo at Talaje, on the mainland.

The earliest date of the mission that we have been able to find is 1572¹. Another writer says that the Spaniards erected in 1586 the Santo Domingo de Talaxe mission at the site of an Indian village, Talaxe.² The ruins of the structure are located on the Elizafield Plantation.³ They consist of a two story octagonal building with the mission and dwelling-house nearby.⁴ The Garden History of Georgia states that, "the tabby ruins of Santo Domingo at Talaje, a Spanish mission and casa fuerte or presidio, [are] still standing at Elizafield Plantation".⁵

According to an aerial perspective drawing of the Mission, made by R.R.Otis and William G. Kurtz from measurements taken on February 1, 1934, there are two structures standing -- one octagonal, the other T-shaped.⁶ Both are built of tabby, a concrete of oyster shells, oyster shell lime and sand.

In 1934 Mr. Cator Woolford presented the ruins to the State of Georgia.⁷

¹ Garden History of Georgia, opp. page 1. Yet on page 50 the writer states that it was built in the last quarter of the sixteenth century. But page 119 corrects the 1572 date to 1592-1600.

² Cate, M.D., Our Todays and Yesterdays, page 196; also page 18.

³ same, page 199.

⁴ same, page 36. See illustration, p.34.

⁵ Garden History of Georgia, opp. page 1.

⁶ To date, May 22, 1936, the H.A.B.S. have no drawings of this mission at the Library of Congress.

⁷ Information given by R.R.Otis and W.G.Kurtz. For illustrations see Bolton; Cate; and Garden History of Georgia.

by *Henry Chandler Forman*
1936